

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen His natal star:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,  
the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,  
the newborn King!

**\*Benediction** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

**\*Response:** “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon  
virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep  
in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

**Postlude** Janet Hill

*We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music  
and God’s presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so. Go  
with God’s blessings.*

**In Appreciation:**

**Greeters:** Jana Nakase-Lee, Jack Nordman  
**Ushers:** Julie Chew, Donna Komure-Toyama  
**Parking:** Phillip Chew  
**Sound System:** Lois Van Beers  
**Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Aki Kumagai  
**Altar Flowers:** Wade Tambara  
**Coffee Time:** PPW Circle 1 and Volunteers



## The Celebration of Worship

December 21, 2025 • Fourth Sunday in Advent

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
Worship Leader: Titus Toyama  
Pianist: Janet Hill  
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor  
Japanese Reader: Aki Kumagai  
YES: Jana Nakase-Lee, Jack Nordman

### Centering Prayer for Advent Worship

*All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save  
us. With singing angels, we praise your name, and tell the earth His story,  
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- From *Book of Common Worship*

**Prelude** Janet Hill

**Choral Welcome**  
“The First Noel”

**\*Introit**  
**All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us  
one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one  
in You.**

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

**Advent Candle Lighting** Michael, Luda, Liam & Lucas Wright

Leader: This morning the candles on the Advent wreath symbolize the powerful presence of God with us in Jesus Christ. The One who was sent to our world to bring God's love to all who experience suffering and hard times.

*(Light 3 purple and 1 pink candle now.)*

We light these candles as a symbol of love. The bright light from the four candles reminds us of the great light that surrounded the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their flocks at night when the angels came and told them that Jesus was being born. An angel choir sang, "Glory to God in the highest!" as they announced the good news of Jesus' birth. Let's pray: O God, your plan for the world needed the love of a mother. May we, like Mary, open our lives to be messengers of Your love to the world. Lord Jesus, may Your coming bring love to every heart. Amen.

**All: May our lives bring God glory as we share the Good News of our Savior's birth with all the world.**

**Call to Worship**

Titus Toyama

Leader: We gather to worship, O God, for it is time to prepare. Angels are about to burst into song, singing of the peace and hope we need.

**People: We gather, eager to begin the celebration: we are people longing to reach Bethlehem; people eager to kneel at the manger; people ready to cradle the Holy Child; people hoping to be made whole.**

**All: As we prepare to celebrate His birth, receive our grateful thanks and praise. We ask this through Him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Opportunity To Present Offerings**

**All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.**

**\*Doxology**

**All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Titus Toyama

**Joys & Concerns**

Titus Toyama

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

Congregation

**All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (#22)**

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading & Sermon** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
“What to Expect When You’re Expecting”

Luke 2:8-20

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among all with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Musical Interlude**

Janet Hill

**\*Opening Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (#41)**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exaltation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

**Invitation to Confession**

Titus Toyama

Leader: God comes to us, to upset our notion that we have to save ourselves.

In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin and our failures, so we might have new life. Let’s turn to God in humility, trusting God to forgive us as we pray together.

**Prayer of Confession**

Titus Toyama

Leader: We confess we aren’t the people you hope us to be, God of Christmas. Yet, with the songs of angels in our ears, we can no longer lash out with angry words that wound others.

**People: Looking for the shepherds to arrive, we cannot ignore the family living in their car in the parking lot at Walmart. Leader: For Love, grace and peace are the gifts You long to give, not only to us, but to the whole world.**

**All: Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Your Son.**

*A Time for Silent Contemplation*

### Assurance of God's Grace

Titus Toyama

Leader: God of Christmas mornings, You became one of us, so all people might draw close to You.

**People: The star of hope that brought light to a dark world that long-ago night in Bethlehem, shines still. Glory to God in the highest!**

**All: We believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's love come down at Christmas, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**\*Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

*All Sing:* Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

### \*Passing of the Peace

Titus Toyama

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### Choir Song

"Amen, Go Tell It!"

Arr. Donald Moore

### Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*Children and youth may now go to YES.*

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** In the Bleak Midwinter (#36)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him: give my heart.

### Unison Prayer of Guidance

**All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Aki Kumagai

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading

Titus Toyama

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.